

## FILTERING UNIT AND METHOD OF SEALING SAME

Abstract of the Disclosure

Ceramic filter elements (1, 15, 26) have a feed surface covered with a ceramic filter membrane (4, 19). As a feed liquid flows over the feed surface, a portion of the liquid passes through the membrane and the filter and is discharged through a discharge surface as a permeate liquid flow. Between the feed and discharge surfaces, the filter element includes an impermeable surface portion (8, 24, 30) which contacts a seal or gasket assembly (17, 29). The seal or gasket assembly includes two seal portions (9, 10) which define a channel (12, 22, 31) in between. The channel connects with a discharge channel (11, 23, 32). In this manner, any liquid leaking between the filter element and another filter element or a housing (21, 27) enters the discharge channel (11, 23, 32). Liquid in the discharge channel indicates a leak in the seal and potential contamination of the permeate liquid.

20540" 8E20E007